

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented) An absorbent food pad comprising
a top sheet;
a bottom sheet; and
one or more islands disposed between said top sheet and said bottom sheet,
wherein said absorbent food pad has one or more complex shapes selected from the group consisting of circle, oval, oblong, polygon, trapezoid, triangle, donut-shaped, cone, rod, and any combinations thereof.
2. (canceled).
3. (original) The absorbent food pad according to claim 1, wherein said top sheet is formed from about one to about seven layers of a material.
4. (previously presented) The absorbent food pad of according to claim 1, wherein said top sheet is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of polymer film, meltblown, nonwoven, spunbond nonwoven, paper-

based, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester, polyurethane, metallocene polyethylene, block copolymer, and any combinations thereof.

5. (previously presented) The absorbent food pad of according to claim 3, wherein said material is selected from the group consisting of polymer film, meltblown, nonwoven, spunbond nonwoven, paper-based, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester, polyurethane, metallocene polyethylene, block copolymer, and any combinations thereof.

6. (original) The absorbent food pad according to claim 1, wherein said bottom sheet is formed from about one to about seven layers of an extruded material, laminated material, or combination thereof.

7. (previously presented) The absorbent food pad of according to claim 1, wherein said bottom sheet is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of polymer film, meltblown, nonwoven, spunbond nonwoven, paper-based, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester, polyurethane, metallocene polyethylene, block copolymer, and any combinations thereof.

8. (previously presented) The absorbent food pad of according to claim 6, wherein said bottom sheet is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of polymer film, meltblown, nonwoven, spunbond nonwoven, paper-

based, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester, polyurethane, metallocene polyethylene, block copolymer, and any combinations thereof.

9. (original) The absorbent food pad according to claim 1 wherein said top sheet and said bottom sheet each have a thickness of about 0.00075 inches to about 0.003 inches.

10. (previously presented) The absorbent food pad according to claim 1, wherein said one or more islands are formed from a material selected from the group consisting of superabsorbent polymer (SAP), compressed SAP composite, thermoplastic polymer fiber, thermoplastic polymer granules, cellulose powder, cellulose gel, airlaid with superabsorbent, foam, foam coated with superabsorbent, foam impregnated with superabsorbent, starch, superabsorbent hot melts, and any combinations thereof.

11. (currently amended) An absorbent pad comprising
a top sheet;
a bottom sheet; and
two or more islands disposed between said top sheet and said bottom sheet,
wherein said two or more islands are separated by a barrier layer, wherein said barrier layer is formed from one or more materials selected from the group

consisting of polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), chitosan, alginate, pectin, polyamide, starch, and any combinations thereof.

12. (canceled).

13. (original) The absorbent pad of claim 11, wherein said two or more islands comprise at least one active selected from the group consisting of antimicrobial agent, sanitizing agent, oxygen scavenger, CO₂ emitter, ethylene scavenger, surface-active agent, and any combinations thereof.

14. (currently amended) An absorbent pad comprising:
a base panel; and
one or more side panels hingeably connected to said base panel,
wherein said one or more side panels each further comprise a top sheet, a bottom sheet, and one or more islands disposed between said top sheet and said bottom sheet.

15. (original) The absorbent pad according to claim 14, wherein said one or more side panels are foldable, allowing said absorbent pad to conform to a base and sidewalls of a similarly dimensioned package or container.

16. (original) The absorbent pad according to claim 14, wherein said base panel further comprises a top sheet, a bottom sheet, and one or more islands disposed between said top sheet and said bottom sheet.

17. through 19. (canceled).

20. (currently amended) An absorbent pad comprising:

a top sheet;

a bottom sheet;

an island disposed between said bottom sheet and said top sheet; and

one or more fluid channels,

wherein said top sheet and said bottom sheet are intermittently sealed together to form said one or more fluid channels.

21. (original) The absorbent pad according to claim 20, further comprising a transfer sheet disposed between said bottom sheet and said island, wherein said transfer sheet extends horizontally beyond said top sheet resulting in the formation of said one or more fluid channels disposed between said top sheet and said transfer sheet.

22. (canceled).

23. (original) The absorbent pad according to claim 20, wherein said top sheet, said bottom sheet, or both said top sheet and said bottom sheet are kiss cut to form said one or more fluid channels.

24. (original) The absorbent pad according to claim 20, wherein said top sheet, said bottom sheet, or both said top sheet and said bottom sheet are free of perforations.

25. (original) An absorbent pad comprising:
a top sheet;
a bottom sheet; and
one or more islands disposed between said top sheet and said bottom sheet,
wherein said top sheet and/or said bottom sheet comprise a predetermined pattern of perforations resulting in one or more zones for increased and/or decreased fluid uptake.

26. (original) The absorbent pad according to claim 25, wherein said perforations vary in diameter across said predetermined pattern.

27. (previously presented) An absorbent pad comprising:
a top sheet;
a bottom sheet; and

one or more islands disposed between said top sheet and said bottom sheet,

wherein said top sheet and/or said bottom sheet comprises a metallocene polyethylene.

28. (original) A method for assembling an absorbent pad, said absorbent pad comprising a top sheet, a bottom sheet, and one or more islands disposed between said top sheet and said bottom sheet, said method comprising the steps of:

disposing one or more islands between said top sheet and said bottom sheet;

electrostatically adhering said top sheet to said bottom sheet; and

sealing said electrostatically adhered top sheet and bottom sheet together,

wherein said absorbent pad is assembled without the use of glue or adhesives.

29. (original) The method according to claim 28, further comprising, prior to the step of electrostatically adhering said top sheet to said bottom sheet, the step of providing a corona treatment to said top sheet, said bottom sheet, or both said top sheet and said bottom sheet.